



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-04010

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Personal Protection Weapons

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information you requested and the answers to your questions are as follows.

Question

The amount of personal protection weapons (PPWs) which have been withdrawn from individuals* during the financial periods of 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011.

*members of the police service or any other individuals.

Answer

The PSNI Firearms Licensing Branch has provided the table below

YEAR	NUMBER WITHDRAWN
2005	9
2006	6
2007	22
2008	72
2009	395
2010	108
2011	111

Note: *individuals relates to personal protection weapons held on firearm certificates and includes revocations and refusals of further grants.

For your information serving PSNI officers are issued with official handguns in their capacity as police officers and they do not fall within **Personal Protection Weapon Policy**.

Question

The amount of personal protection weapon requests which have been refused during the same periods.

Answer

The PSNI Firearms Licensing Branch has provided the table below

YEAR	NUMBER OF PPW APPLICATIONS REFUSED
2005	*27
2006	*8
2007	*12
2008	42
2009	114
2010	179
2011	14

Note: *Only partial information is provided for these periods due to the non-availability of manual records. The statistics provided represent 2/3 of all relevant records and relate to first time applications for personal protection weapons.

Question

The amount of personal protection weapons in circulation during the same periods.

Answer

The PSNI Firearms Licensing Branch has advised that the numbers in circulation are

YEAR	PPWs IN CIRCULATION
2005	6500
2006	5264
2007	4278
2008	3741
2009	3334
2010	3044
2011	3013

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible, or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.pnn.police.uk.

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.psni.police.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.